

Application No.: 10/083,092

Case No.: 56471US010

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7, 12, 14-17, 24, and 31-33 are pending. Claims 13, 18, 29, and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 14-17, and 24 are amended. Claims 31 to 33 have been added.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 14-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The claims improperly depended from a cancelled claim.

Claims 14-17 depend from claim 1. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the above rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office submits that claims 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claims 29 and 30 as new independent claims 31 and 32. Applicants have cancelled claims 29 and 30. Accordingly, new claims 31 and 32 are allowable.

The Patent Office submits that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation "wherein the protective article is bonded to a portion of a surface of a vehicle" which includes the limitation of claim 18. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims dependent from claim 1 (that is, 5, 7, 12, 13-17) are allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 7, 13-17, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,337,129 (Badesha).

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As stated above, Applicants submit that claims 1, 5, 7, 13-17, and 24 are now allowable over the cited references of record. Applicants have amended claim 24 to include the limitation that the adhesive also contains an anti-corrosion additive. Thus, claim 24 should also now be allowable. Accordingly, for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

New claim 33 combines un-amended claim 24 with the limitation that the backing has a patterned structure. Accordingly, new claim 33 should also be allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

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